

St. Andrew Lutheran Church Encounter

August 2020

A Message from Pastor Mark Sundberg

Our mission as a congregation is to Share Christ. More specifically, it is to help people come to know Christ, to grow in their relationship with Christ and Christ's Church, and to be equipped to serve and witness in Christ's name.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope you know the mission statement of St. Andrew Lutheran very well. It is a well thought out statement. I can tell it took much prayer and discernment with many spiritually gifted people to compose it. Whether or not it lasts forever, or if another mission statement is created, it has truth that should guide all of us.

I am coming to the end of my transitional ministry in this place. This will be my last newsletter at St. Andrew Lutheran. Thank you all for being so kind and accepting of me. I have grown in faith, hope, and love during my stay here. I did not ever expect to be a pastor under these pandemic health circumstances. It has been hard not to see all of you on Sunday. I know that your new called pastor will have times ahead to know you all and love you all – to walk with all of you in faith, as we wait for the perfected kingdom to come.

Please welcome, accept, and love your new called pastor. Being a pastor is rewarding, but it is always difficult, and it seems to be getting more difficult in this age. Pray for your pastor.

I will pray for you and the new direction God is leading you!
In Christian service,

Pastor Mark Sundberg (transitional pastor) August 2020



The *President's* Corner

Dearest Congregation,

I hope that this article is finding everyone healthy!!!

I am writing this with much excitement. We have great news and some great changes about to happen.

I am very happy to announce that the Call Committee has chosen us an awesome pastoral candidate. I can't wait for all of you to meet Pastor Jenna Pulkowski. She is high energy and very passionate about God and her possibility of leading us into the next chapter of St. Andrew's journey. Pastor Pulkowski is traditional with the capability of being adventurous and can think outside of the box when needed. I feel she will be able to bring St. Andrew into the next decade with poise, grace and an abundance of Joy.

Continued on page two

Sermon Titles for August

- August 2 *"Our Generous Host"*
- August 9 *"Don't Be Afraid"*
- August 16 *"Clean and Unclean"*
- August 23 *"The True Foundation"*
- August 30 *"Taking Up the Cross Today"*

Worship with
us
by viewing
our service
on line at:



Standrewmundelein.com

The President's Corner

Continued from page one



While in contract talks with Pastor Pulkowski we discussed my being on the council and an employee. During the last annual meeting, it was voted that I stay on council until the 2021 annual meeting. I feel with the possibility of Pastor coming on that it would serve her, I and you better for me to step down from council when she is installed. So this is me letting everyone know that when a pastor comes on board that I will be immediately stepping down from council. Lisa Green our current Vice President will step up to the president position. I ask that everyone welcome Lisa to this position and help her with whatever she may need from all of us.

Since this will be my last letter I would like to say something to each and every one of you. We as a church have been through many changes in the last 18 months. I am very proud and thankful to be part of this FAMILY. Yes we have had squabbles, just like any family. Also like any family we have come out of the other side of our squabbles with much more understanding and respect for each other. The faith, commitment, unwavering dedication, and faith in each other's differences and capabilities has humbled me many times. Your acceptance of others has been what has kept me from throwing up my hands and saying no more. Your willingness to accept tradition and change will be what keeps St. Andrew thriving in the future. Remember that no child thrives without support, acceptance of change and love. And with a new pastor coming in we are very much children of God.

Let us press in and press on toward the goal to win the prize to which God in Christ is calling us upward. Phil.3:14

Look to the future for your reward. Hebrews 12:11

Don't settle for less than God's best. God has tremendous blessing for you. Commit right now to trust him, to go all the way with him, to press through the challenging times and never settle for less than his best for you. Gen. 11:31

Start strong, finish well! Hebrews 12:2

I am adding this since our voting on August 1st, 2020. We voted for Pastor Jenna Pulkowski to join us as Pastor. I am so excited to have this positive change upon us. I see great things coming our way. We have waited patiently for this. Now we can continue to grow with a fresh energy and passion in our leadership role.

In God's name,
Teresa Maki
Out going council president

Church Council

Council Officers:

President: Teresa Maki
Vice President: Lisa Green
Secretary: Steve Jacobson
Treasurer:..... Deb Slaughter

Ministry Team Liaisons:

Christian Education:..... Jackie Schmidt
Communication: Teresa Maki
Evangelism:..... Leslie Parriott
Finance: Mary Hanson
Memorial: Steve Jacobson
Parish Life: Lyn Hayes
Property: Matt Sample
Social Ministry: Nancy Milne
Staff Support: Lisa Green
Stewardship: Ellen Van Zeeland
Worship and Music: Rhonda VanderBloomen
Youth: Erika List

From Pastor Jenna Pulkowski

Our Newest Member and Shepherd

Dear St. Andrew Lutheran Church,

As I write this first monthly newsletter for our new mutual ministry, I am filled to overflowing with joy, excitement, and thanksgiving. I know you have prayed long and hard for your new pastor, just as I have for a new congregation, and I thank God that we have found each other!

I also want to thank Pr Sundberg for his loving and compassionate ministry over the last 12 months. It isn't easy serving as an interim in the best of times, but in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the search process for a new pastor, things especially did not go as planned. I thank God for Pr Sundberg's care for the people of St. Andrew, and that he can now enjoy his retirement. He has well and truly earned some rest and relaxation.

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that God has plans for us, and that they are good plans: ¹¹"For surely I know the I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you" (NSRV Jeremiah 29:11-12).

God made this promise to the people of Israel while they were in what is known as the Babylonian Exile. They had been forcibly removed from their lands, and dispersed across first the Assyrian Empire, and then the Babylonian Empire. Beyond losing their homes and their communities, they also lost their access to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Temple life was the center of the religious life of an Israelite in the 7th century BCE, and both tradition and Torah dictated that all offerings, sacrifices, and worship had to be at the Temple for it to be acceptable to God. And yet, God had not abandoned Israel even though they were in exile. Even though they could not worship at the Temple, or live life as they had lived for generations, it was not the end of Israel. In sharing God's promise, Jeremiah was reminding the people of Israel that they had a future, because God was still in their present.

While we have not had nearly the same exile as the Israelites (and it is harmful for us to suggest otherwise), we have experienced an exile of our own. We have been asked, and at times required, to minimize our public activities so that we can slow down the spread of Covid. Our worship has looked different than anything we were previously used to, and we've hardly gotten to see one another in person for months. We are exhausted by doing everything virtually and digitally, by not being able to shake hands or hug one another, by the work of mask-wearing and social distancing. Life as we have known it has been utterly turned upside down, and it feels like we will never be the same again.

What has not changed, and will never change, is God. God promises to abide with us no matter where we are, and no matter what the world around us may look like. Just as God promised the people of Israel that their future as God's beloveds *did* exist, God promises us that our future as God's beloveds exists.

We may not know exactly what our future holds, but we can be confident that God is in it. In fact, that God is already there. While we continue to maintain distance from one another as an act of love for the most vulnerable amongst us, innovating and experimenting with new ways of doing ministry and being the Church, God is with us here, right now.

Peace,
Pr Jenna



St. Andrew Lutheran
A little church with a BIG mission

PEOPLE POWER AUGUST 2020

Due to the current COVID restrictions we have not scheduled anyone for People Power at this time, for the month of August. As we learn when we will again be able to worship together at church, Anita will create a schedule and distribute to those involved.

ST. ANDREW CALENDAR – AUGUST

The church is closed. As you are able, we strongly encourage you to stay home, stay healthy, save lives. Offerings and items for PADS and/or COOL may be dropped at the church on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10 AM to 3 PM. Call ahead and/or ring the doorbell (to the left of the door). Pastor Sundberg will greet you.

On-line sign-up for Sunday outdoor worship services will be emailed out on a week- to-week bases.

Gifts and Memorial Fund

The church gift/memorial fund is established for the purpose of receiving and holding money given to the church in memory or honor of someone or to honor a special occasion.

GIFTS CAN BE GIVEN IN MEMORY, IN HONOR, AND WITH THANKS TO, GOD FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED.

Who Cares Anyway?

St. Andrew Cares Fund

St. Andrew Cares is a special assistance fund used to help people in need.

Many times during a month individuals and families come to our church with real needs.

If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, you may give it to Pastor Sundberg, send it to the church office, or place it in the offering plate in the Narthex.

Giving a gas card or a gift certificate from a grocery store is also a great way to help meet the needs of those who come to the church seeking help.



Thank you for your generosity!



SCRIPTURES for August:

August 2 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 9 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 16 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:21-28

August 23 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 30 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

PRAYER VENTURES

August 2020

- 1** Pray for open hearts and minds, that we might reflect prayerfully on our church, society, institutions, laws, traditions and selves, seeking meaningful change and reform to combat racism and white supremacy wherever they exist, perpetuate injustice or influence us.
- 2** Pray that the story of Jesus feeding the hungry crowd will inspire us to be compassionate and generous, and that, individually and together, we will be able and equipped to respond to the needs of our neighbor.
- 3** Give thanks for artists and craftspeople who share their creative gifts and perspectives, arousing our joy, wonder, reflection and appreciation of life.
- 4** Pray that we will not be too inhibited to wrestle with God and God's Word, or to have candid conversations with God, and that the Spirit will deepen our trust in God's love, concern, forgiveness and patience with us.
- 5** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Young Adults in Global Mission program will not be sending out volunteers this year. Give thanks for young adults who have volunteered for global service over the years, and pray that the Spirit will guide the Young Adults in Global Mission program as it prepares to continue its work and ministry alongside our global companions.
- 6** Ask the Spirit to help us be bold and articulate in sharing who God is, what God has done and what God is doing in the world for the sake of all people.
- 7** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly and participating in online sessions, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.
- 8** Pray for the Spirit to stir within us humility, wisdom, empathy and a commitment to dismantle the barriers between people who live in wealth and people who live in poverty. Pray that all will have sufficient resources for daily life and self-sufficiency but also will develop a deeper commitment to mutual care and will value one another and our interdependence.
- 9** Just as Jesus calmed and reassured his disciples in a boat crossing a stormy sea, we pray for protection, comfort and renewal of faith in these difficult, uncertain times and in future ordeals.
- 10** Give thanks to God for leaders — paid and volunteer — who serve in youth, young adult and family ministries in our congregations and synods. Pray for the ELCA Youth, Young Adult and Youth Gathering ministries and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network, that their collective work of supporting, equipping and nurturing faith and of connecting leaders and young people will yield abundant fruit.
- 11** Pray that we will listen carefully to God and be receptive to the ways God speaks to us each day, especially when we least expect it or are slow to recognize God's voice amid the noise and competing voices in the world.
- 12** "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Ask God to help us proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and salvation, that all who hear will believe, be saved and enjoy the blessings of being a sibling in Christ with believers throughout the world.
- 13** Give thanks for nurses, who care for our physical, emotional and spiritual needs in diverse settings, including hospitals, community clinics, congregations, schools, home care, the military, facilities for older adults, health education programs and global mission. Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association and its work supporting, equipping and encouraging parish nurses across the country.
- 14** Pray that during this pandemic, which has stretched beyond our expectations and imagination, we will be renewed in our commitment to the patience, sacrifice and awareness of the example we set as we continue personal health measures for the sake of our health and the wellness of our neighbors, community and nation.
- 15** Pray for the leaders, voting members and others of the Eastern North Dakota Synod who are gathering for their digital assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.
- 16** Pray for forgiveness and God's mercy when our actions, intentions or thoughts dishonor God's ways and commandments. Ask for the Spirit to help us shine as bright witnesses to God's unbound, unbiased love for humanity

and to serve our neighbor without prejudice or reluctance.

- 17** Remember in prayer the people and communities of India and Bangladesh that were affected by Cyclone Amphan in May. Pray for the response of Lutheran World Service India Trust, supported by Lutheran Disaster Response, as it provides food to families in urban slums, tarps and temporary shelters, and assists families in obtaining aid for housing reconstruction. Pray for God's presence, comfort, hope and healing throughout their recovery.
- 18** God asks us to do justice and do what is right. Pray that we will be faithful to God's ways and commandments and to Jesus' example of unrestrained love and compassion for people who are needy, suffering or oppressed.
- 19** Give thanks for nimble, creative teachers and school staff as they adapt to the changing dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic with concern for the safety, education and personal needs of students and their parents.
- 20** God is gracious and blesses us; God's face shines on us. Join creation and every nation in praising God and singing for joy!
- 21** Who can argue with the psalmist who proclaims that it is good and pleasant when we live together in unity? Pray that, amid unrest, conflict and division, we will work for unity that God desires for us, a unity rooted in love, respect, justice, diversity, reconciliation, mutual understanding and advocacy for neighbors in need.
- 22** Give thanks for how God sustains us and nurtures our hope through interactions with friends, family, siblings in Christ, strangers and communities of faith - in person and by phone, text, email, online meetings, posted notes and cards, and acts of kindness.
- 23** How do you respond when someone asks you about your faith, your beliefs, the church or who Jesus is? Pray that the Spirit will inspire our boldness and clarity as we, respecting and welcoming people's questions, talk about our faith, recognize and seek opportunities to bear witness to God's presence and work in the world, and reveal the Jesus we know and follow through our actions and prayerful conversations.
- 24** Pray for students beginning a new academic year, that they will adjust quickly to new ways of learning, being together and interacting safely. Ask the Spirit to inspire our communities of faith to provide support, encouragement and help for children, youth, young adults and parents, especially during these beginning weeks and months of school.
- 25** "In one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another." Give thanks and praise to God for the diverse gifts, skills and life experiences we have been given, which we share in the body of Christ to build each other up and do God's work in the world.
- 26** Remember in prayer our global companions and all nations fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting economic problems and social and emotional stress, and the lack of accessible health care and adequate medical resources. Pray that we will respond to our global neighbors in need with empathy, hope and generosity, freely sharing our resources, discoveries and technology.
- 27** Give thanks and praise to God for hearing our words, loving us, sustaining us through times of trouble and strengthening our spirit and faith.
- 28** Give thanks that, as a church, we listen to the needs of our neighbors, roll up our sleeves and get to work with partners and companions in our communities and the world, helping and serving where the needs are greatest.
- 29** In this presidential campaign year, pray that our leaders and candidates will serve all people, especially those in the greatest need; work to heal wounds and divisions in society; strive for justice and equality; and seek change for the well-being and prosperity of our communities. Pray that our faith, wisdom and concern for neighbors and global companions will guide our discernment and decisions in upcoming elections.
- 30** Give thanks that we have been transformed and made new through God's love for us and our baptism in Jesus Christ. Pray that the living word of Jesus will guide our baptismal journeys so that we extend hospitality to strangers, love and serve our neighbor, overcome evil with good, accompany people who are suffering and in pain, and disavow vengeance and hate.
- 31** Pray for synod leaders and committees as they carefully plan assemblies rescheduled for this fall or next year. Remember that our strength and unity in Christ transcend traditional places, methods or times of gathering — we are the church, the body of Christ, in every setting and circumstance.

STEWARDSHIP –

PROUDLY, OUR WAY OF LIFE AT ST. ANDREW

First of all, thank YOU again for being such faithful stewards of what God has graciously given to you and your continued support of YOUR St. Andrew family during these difficult times. Without our faith that God is truly for us, where would we be now?

Reflecting back over the past couple months, these are strange and different times. We have had to rearrange the way we are working, some have lost or been furloughed from their jobs. We've had to limit our comings and goings, stay distanced from family and friends, decreased our shopping trips to essentials and going out to a restaurant to eat like we may be used to. This last point is something that has been difficult for me, personally, since at the end of a busy week Jeff and I would have our "date night" – usually grab a bite to eat and then end up at the mall or another store sometimes (honestly many times) buying things we didn't necessarily need at that time. In many instances, there has been good that has come out of this – we may have learned to be more patient and caring. We have had the opportunity to spend more time, without rushing to the next task, with our immediate family. We've had more time to reach out to people we haven't had the time for in the past. Maybe we've been able to give some of what we don't really need to those who "do need" and we've been able to say "thank you" to those who are helping us through all this. We have been able to give more of ourselves without much extra effort. We are getting through this by staying strong, remembering our faith, believing that God is with us and guiding us to take care of each other. We have persevered. We have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

If "you have time", please read Hebrews chapter 11:29-40, or better yet, the entire book; it isn't long. There are great examples of trust in God that enabled others to face the trials of life faithfully. Over the past couple months, we have heard stories in today's time also of many faithful heroes. They have walked right into the path of the enemy.

Chapter 12: 1 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us....."

Benediction Chapter 13: 20-21

"Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

Lyn Hayes and the Stewardship Tea

Your Gift to God Brings Blessings!

Please remember that our payroll and utilities don't stop, so we still need your offering.

So, what can you do when you don't go out in public? It is called online giving and it will still allow you to make your offering. It is safe and secure with special protection so your identity cannot be stolen.

How do you do this? First, go to your computer and enter 'www.standrewmundelein.com'. It will open the Church's website and on the middle right-hand side is a section called 'Online Giving'.

The second step, if you have never done this before, is to create a 'profile'. This will be your Profile and you will use your email address and password to get in in the future.

To make a single donation, click on the [Add Transaction button](#). Now you can enter the amount for Regular, Building, Benevolence, Youth, World Hunger or Chris Ed. Next enter a credit card, savings account or checking account and finish the transaction.

You can make it a one-time or recurring giving, and print a copy for your own records. That's how it is done. And don't forget to Log Off in the upper right corner.

This site is secure and works through Vanco Payment Solutions (cs@vancopayments.com) theirs to do it and you don't have to share your login email address and password with them.

Quilters' Crossing

Blessings and hugs to you all again!

I continue to pray for the good health and safety of everyone! These are still not the times we would like them to be although being the faithful people we are, we know that God is with us and continually helping us to be who we are and knowing that we are all here for each other!



The Quilters are now getting ready to be able to ship **400 BEAUTIFUL QUILTS** to those in need and are asking if you would like to help with the shipping cost. If so, either mail or drop off to the church an envelope with your donation marked "for Quilters Shipping" on the check memo line as well as on the outside of the envelope. The cost to ship each quilt is approximately \$2.50. We have always received generous support with these costs in the past and it helps so that our budget can be used for more materials and supplies to make even **MORE QUILTS!** Also, if you are willing and able to help Gary Burchardt transport the quilts on August 13, please give him a call at (847)566-8052. He would be very grateful for any help you can give him!

The Quilters are meeting in a small group each Thursday, still working with required "distancing" and face coverings for the safety of all. They are now focusing on the Baby Care Kits and are in need of one piece sleepers (preferably without feet), baby t-shirts and baby socks (size 6 – 24 months). We are **VERY THANKFUL FOR ALL THE MANY DONATIONS AND THE RESPONSE SO FAR!** **The y already have 75 KITS READY TO GO but know there is still a great need!** If there are any questions or you would like to help either by joining the group or seeing what you can do at home, please call Judy Parriott (847)986-4465.

We do continue to pray we will be able to get back to "normal" at some time before too long, but we still don't know when that will be. When we feel we may be getting nearer to that point, then more questions arise. By the strength of our faith, by the Love of our Lord and Saviour, we will get through this – we have to continue to believe this! Many of us still are anxious and as the days go on it is still getting more difficult I feel, but please **REMAIN SAFE AND STRONG!**

Lyn Hayes and the Quilters

COOL

Christian Outreach of Lutherans

First, I would like to thank the congregation for your continued support of COOL Ministries. Your food and monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Due to COVID-19, two COOL Fundraisers had to be rescheduled. **FOODSTOCK** fund raiser was held virtually on line this past June and the **Golf Outing** that takes place in July has been postponed. If the **Golf Outing** gets rescheduled in the Fall I will let you know.

Several of our members have supported these events in the past so I wanted to let you know what has happened. Both of these fundraisers have been a big part of the COOL budget in the past . Currently, private donations and grants are making up some of the losses.

COOL is open 5 days a week from 10-2, serving the members of our community in need, currently serving over four thousand people a month.

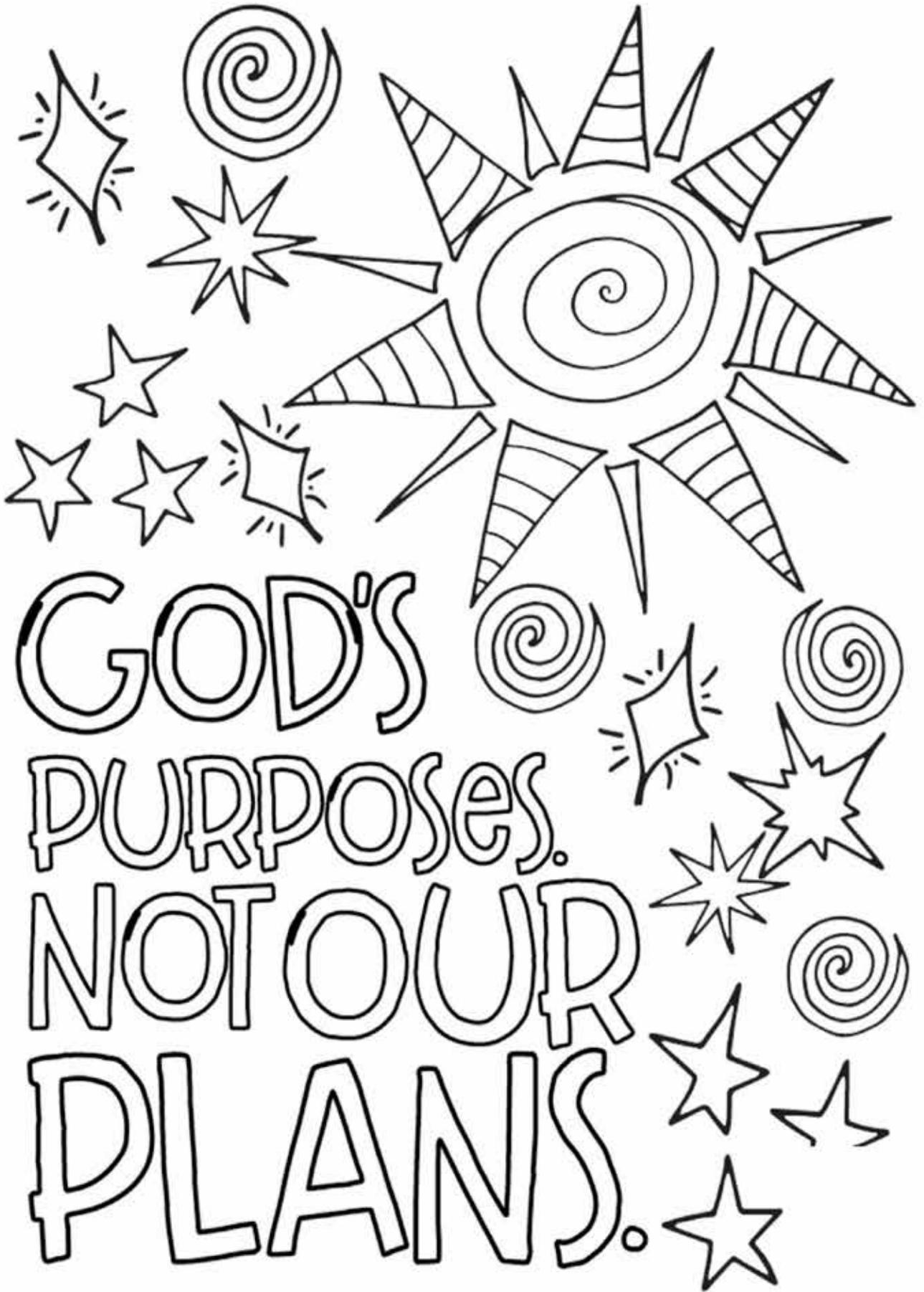
The housing program has successfully graduated four families this summer with a fifth family graduating this month. They are preparing for a single mother with 3 boys who have been living in a mini van in Walmart's parking lot.

Your support of COOL serves many in need and we are grateful to COOL staff, though few in number are mighty in the work that is being done. Please continue to support this ministry. If you have any questions call Becky Patrick at 847-949-1236.

Thank You!
Becky Patrick



For our young readers



Building
Faith
In Our
Future

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
10 South Lake Street
Mundelein, IL 60060

Not
Equal
Giving
But
Equal
Sacrifice

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"Sharing Christ"

- In Faithful Worship
- Faithful Giving
- Ministry Participation
- Daily Living

www.standrewmundelein.com
Telephone No.: 847-566-8081

**Dated Material
Do Not Delay**

All are Welcome...



*Sunday Service
can be viewed at*
www.standrewmundelein.com

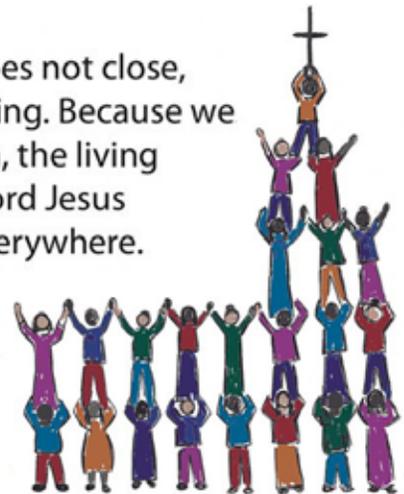
A special thanks to
Pastor Mark Sundberg
for leading us through
these challenging times.

We give Glory to God
for you Sharing Christ with us!

St. Andrew Lutheran Church (ELCA)
10 South Lake Street
Mundelein, IL 60060

www.standrewmundelein.com
Telephone No.: 847-566-8081

The church does not close,
only the building. Because we
are the church, the living
body of our Lord Jesus
and we are everywhere.



Our mission as a congregation is to *Share Christ*. More specifically, it is to help people come to *know* Christ, to *grow* in their relationship with Christ and his Church, and to be equipped to *serve* and *witness* in Christ's name. We would love to have you join us in this mission.